



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 15, 2010

MEDIA CONTACT:

Sarah Holsapple
Public Information Officer
Indianapolis Department of Public Works
Email: sarah.holsapple@indy.gov
Office: 317.327.4669
Cell: 317.223.1375

INDIANAPOLIS STUDENTS “MAKE A SPLASH”

DPW FIELD TRIP TEACHES STUDENTS ABOUT WATER QUALITY

INDIANAPOLIS – Nearly 150 fourth and fifth grade students made a splash today at the Indianapolis Department of Public Works’ (DPW) fifth annual “Make a Splash” water festival field trip.

Held at Riverside Park, students participated in five hands-on learning stations, where they explored a variety of water-related topics, from water pollution to raw sewage overflows.

At the event, DPW encouraged students to be good stewards of the environment. Students were given reusable aluminum water bottles to take home to use in place of plastic water bottles.

SustainIndy joined the event this year to help communicate the need for a sustainable environment, and DPW incorporated the concept of sustainability into the day’s activities.

“It’s never too early to teach children how to be sustainable and how they can contribute to a better quality of life for everyone in our community,” said Kären Haley, Director of the City’s Office of Sustainability, who also served as emcee for the event’s luncheon. “When taught these habits early, children are likely to continue them as they grow. In order to make Indianapolis a truly sustainable city, we need future generations to continue the work we’ve started.”

Participating schools included Acton Elementary and Eleanor Skillen Elementary.

“Make a Splash” was made possible through support from DPW, which is working to improve water quality in Marion County. Project WET, a nonprofit water education program for educators and students, designed “Make a Splash” to emphasize water education principles in a fun, interactive environment.

Other sponsors included American Structurepoint, Black & Veatch, Clark Dietz, Commonwealth Engineers, Inc., DLZ, Hirons & Company, O.W. Krohn & Associates, Marsh Supermarkets, Inc., Parsons Brinckerhoff, Repro Graphics, RW Armstrong, Sycamore Advisors and Veolia Water.

Mayor Greg Ballard created the Office of Sustainability in October 2008. Its goal is to aggressively move Indianapolis toward becoming one of the most sustainable cities in the Midwest. For more information, visit www.sustainindy.org.

